

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24561 041822Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 041810Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5777
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24561

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FOR WASHINGTON LIAISON GROUP
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: AEMR, MPOL, MILL, PORS, XG, XF, GW, UK
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF TRANSIT/SAFEHAVEN AGREEMENTS TO
FACILITATE EMERGENCY EVACUATION (E&E) FROM GERMANY

REF: (A) BONN 13875; (B) LONDON 12318

1. WE OF COURSE SHARE EMBASSY BONN'S CONCERN THAT E&E PREPARATIONS FOR US CITIZENS IN THE FRG BE AS FULLY DEVELOPED AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE ALSO AGREE WITH EMBASSY LONDON'S COMMENTS ON THE QUESTIONABLE DESIRABILITY OF PROPOSING NEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, AND BELIEVE THAT THE SAME ARGUMENTATION IS EQUALLY VALID FOR FRANCE.

2. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE VERY COOPERATIVE, SHOULD AN EMERGENCY ARISE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT WISH TO ENTER A FORMAL AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE. THE FRENCH EQUATION IS AS ALWAYS COMPLICATED BY THE "SPECIAL STATUS" NOTED BY EMBASSY BONN. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE FRENCH WOULD NOT WANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE SORT OF AUTOMATICITY OF RESPONSE WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED BY A BILATERAL AGREEMENT. AS EMBASSY LONDON POINTS OUT, SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE SEEN AS NEARLY EQUIVALENT TO A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REINFORCEMENT EFFORT AND THUS IN THE CONFLICT, WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO WELL ESTABLISHED FRENCH PRINCIPLES. FURTHERMORE, EVEN RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE FRENCH COULD COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM, SINCE THEY WOULD MOST LIKELY SEE IT AS ANOTHER FORM OF PRESSURE FOR BROADENED NATO ACTIVITIES AND COMMITMENTS.

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3. WE SHARE EMBASSY LONDON'S VIEW THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE A BETTER ROUTE TO BEGIN WITH, IF FURTHER E&E PREPARATIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY. THE FRENCH MIGHT BALK AT ANY FORM OF COMMITMENT EVEN IF THE MATTER WERE RAISED IN NATO, BUT IF IT COULD BE DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF A BROADER, RELATED PROBLEM DURING THE NORMAL COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, WE WOULD PROBABLY STAND OUR BEST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING SOMETHING RELATIVELY CONCRETE.

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